

# THE COLLEGIAN

SERVING THE TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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## DISTRICT

# Campus rebuild part of bond proposal

JUAN IBARRA  
editor-in-chief

The entire NW Campus is shrouded in scaffolding and fences. It has been for nearly four years after a March 2016 storm took off a portion of the exterior brick facade.

Now, TCC's former board president said engineers at the time studied the damage and realized that the building was unsafe. As a result, she said TCC plans on rebuilding at least part of the

campus. The \$825 million bond proposal approved by the board and scheduled to be decided by Tarrant County voters in a Nov. 5 election will go partly to rebuilding the campus.

"That building was badly built," Louise Appleman said. "The contractor just didn't do it right, and those winds hit it just right during that storm. When the engineers went in there to look at it, they realized there was no repairing it. It has got to come down."

Reginald Gates, vice

chancellor for communications and external affairs, in response to Appleman's comments, said that the college will share information with the public in the coming weeks.

"Plans are going to be phased, but as of now they aren't finalized," Gates said.

The cost of evaluations and scaffolding reached up to \$2.1 million by February. Architectural firm Huckabee and Associates and design firm Gensler were interviewed and selected to start the planning

phase for the development of NW Campus.

The bond proposal calls for "constructing, improving and renovating and equipping" the buildings in the TCC district, according to the proposal approved by the board Aug. 15.

Current board president Conrad Heede said listening to staff and faculty and hearing what they have to say about the needs on each campus contributed to finalizing the plans of the bond election.

See *Bond*, page 6



Collegian file photo

Due to storm damage on NW Campus, the board will use some of the bond money to reconstruct the campus.

## NORTHWEST

# Longtime vice president retires after 47 years

JUAN IBARRA  
editor-in-chief

After 47 years of working with TCC, NW vice president of student development services Joe Rode has retired.

Since joining the college in 1972, Rode has dedicated his life to connecting with students. Rode prefers to speak to students directly and be involved with them in

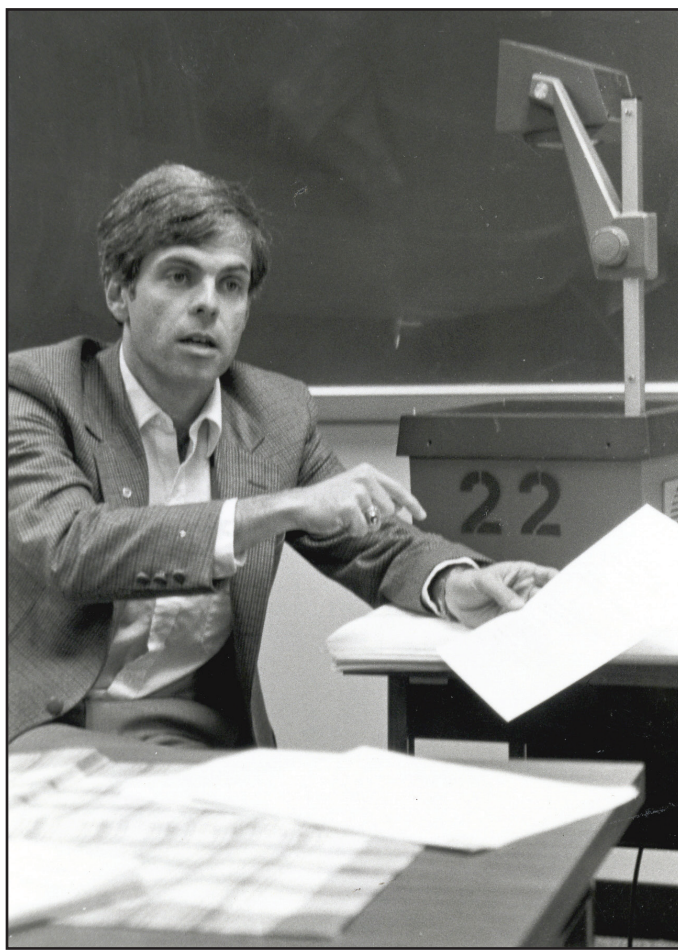
a more face-to-face manner.

"I walk around and talk to them. I ask them what they're doing and how they're doing or if they need anything," Rode said. "I am very hands-on and out of my office a lot, walking the campus and talking to students. You gotta get out there. I believe that."

Just in one morning, Rode had gone out to six different areas where students convene and offered them support while thanking them.

Before joining TCC, Rode spent his time teaching at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas, where he taught English.

"When I was teaching high school, the students didn't really respond very well to sentence diagramming and reading novels," Rode said. "But, when I told them, 'If you do your work on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, we could suspend English on Fridays and just talk about our lives,' that was a big hit."



Collegian file photo, Joseph Serrata/The Collegian

NW vice president of student development services Joe Rode retires after working at TCC for 47 years. Rode began his career as an English teacher at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas in 1971.

This success was a breakthrough for Rode and his students but was short-lived after his principal found out.

"[The principal] said, 'Are you a counselor?' and I said, 'No sir, I'm an English teacher,' to which he replied 'Yeah, that's what I thought, so quit having these classroom meetings. And go get your counseling degree

because I would hire you as a counselor, but you don't really have the credentials to do what you're doing,'" Rode said. "That really made an impact on me, and the next semester I did enroll in my first counseling class."

This interaction showed Rode what he enjoyed about working with students, and shortly after was hired at TCC as a counselor and psy-

chology instructor.

"The whole career field of being a counselor just fit with who I am and that relational approach to people," Rode said.

The more hands-on approach has continued in recent years with his work with student organizations like Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Government Associ-

ation. Rode said he believes this is the best way he has gotten a feel for how to best help students.

"I ask them [student leaders] to represent all the students, not just themselves," Rode said. "It's easy to say 'We need to do this,' but have you surveyed other students or have you held visioning sessions?"

See *Rode*, page 6

"People are not superior, and people are not inferior either. We're all just passing through."

Joe Rode

## DISTRICT

# New board president reflects on his first few months in office

JUAN IBARRA  
editor-in-chief

Businessman Conrad Heede took over when Louise Appleman retired from her seat as president of the board of trustees in May.

Heede has been a trustee with TCC since 2011, but this role is new for Heede.

"It's a learning curve, but I've attended several sessions about being board president," Heede said. "The transition has been pretty easy, but it is a learn-on-the-job kind of position. I'm hopefully getting better and better every meeting."

Appleman said Heede has the option to become his own type of board president, since no two people can run things the same way, even when holding the same position.

"We all have our own way of conducting meetings," Appleman said. "Hopefully, my conduct offered Mr. Heede some guidance;

"The board president is the spokesman for the board, but we collectively make the decisions. I'm board president, but I only have one vote, like everybody else on the board."

Conrad Heede

but he is his own person, bringing his own board experiences to the table."

The TCC board of trustees is one of the most important organizations in the county due to the fact that their decisions affect a hundred thousand lives a year, \Appleman said.

The board of trustees is unique in that it covers a large area consisting of multiple districts and cities with representatives who work toward one common goal.

"Not only do we all come from different geographical areas

of the district, but we have different knowledge and experience that we bring to the front when we experience a problem," Heede said.

The board members oversee different cities, and this helps when coming up with decisions for the future of TCC.

"We have people on the board that have different areas of expertise, and we all ask very good questions of the staff," Heede said. "Not only what are we buying, but why are we buying it. I think that makes for a healthy situation."

See *Heede*, page 6



Glenn Ellman/The Collegian

Businessman Conrad Heede takes the gavel as part of his new position as president of the TCC board of trustees.



Bond (continued from page 1)

“When you’re on NW Campus, it doesn’t take more than driving up to the buildings to determine those needs,” Heede said. “Or going out to SE and see the number of students and the overcrowding. South Campus and NE Campus are over 50 years old.”

TCC hasn’t held a bond election since 1993. Since then, the college has put aside money to pay for its own repairs, but Heede says the time is right to change that philosophy.

“We had a pay-as-you-go plan that worked well for a number of years, but all of a sudden we have a great number of needs on every campus,” Heede said. “So, the bond program just made a whole lot of sense. Interest rates on bonds are very low right now.”

If approved by voters, the college would not receive a lump sum of \$825 million all at once, but rather in two or three quantities, Heede said.

“We don’t want to borrow any money that we don’t absolute-

ly need to address the needs that we’re trying to accomplish at any one time,” Heede said.

The “One College” program, instituted by chancellor Eugene Giovannini, states that the TCC district is not six colleges, but one college with six campuses. This initiative has been a major proponent to ensure that the bond election takes place, he said.

“When the chancellor instituted the ‘One College’ program, he asked people at every level that are contributing their knowledge and advice to state needs that the college has and advice on how to make the college more effective and efficient,” Heede said. “And that’s yielding tremendous results.”

NW vice president for student development services Joe Rode said the mission of TCC is to help students while providing the best resources possible.

“We really need new facilities,” Rode said. “The students deserve new facilities. The South Campus is 50 years old.”

Heede (continued from page 1)

The board works together to work as efficiently as possible, and Heede is proud of the work that has been done the last few months, namely with the budget.

“The budget is very conservative in terms of dollars, but gives the staff 3% raise, which they deserve, but also addresses the needs of the college,” Heede said.

The budget of approximately \$375 million was carefully crafted, and even after that, spending the money is something that Heede and the board don’t take lightly.

“That’s a lot of money, and we want to make sure that money is used effectively,” Heede said.

Although the budget is a highlight for Heede, he recognizes the chancellor Eugene Giovannini as the one who has the final say.

“He’s our only employee so we have to work through the chancellor,” Heede says. “That’s his responsibility, but we oversee that. And we support the chancellor and the staff.”

The board works together and Heede says that while they are a team, they do have their own individuality, and that stems from everyone having their own experience

Although he has the title, Heede says that does not mean he is more important than anyone else.

“The board president is the spokesman for the board, but we collectively make the decisions,” Heede said. “I’m board president, but I only have one vote like everybody else on the board.”

Rode (continued from page 1)



Joseph Serrata/The Collegian

NW vice president of student development services Joe Rode has retired after 23 years in the position and 47 with TCC. Rode led with a student-focused approach.

Rode’s friendly approach doesn’t just revolve around academics. In an attempt to be more approachable, he wears colorful socks with pictures or characters on them to try and show students that not everything has to be so stiff and serious all the time.

“I have maybe 20 pairs of ‘happy socks,’” Rode said. “It helps to be more relational, and people say ‘Dr. Rode, show me your socks today.’”

Even in more serious situations, such as a student disciplinary report, Rode’s No. 1 goal is to never let students lose their motivation.

“Regardless of the sanction, whether it is probation or ‘take a semester off,’ whatever it is, I always say ‘Please, please don’t quit

trying. This is just a little hiccup in the road. This is not the end. I can see that you have a lot of inner strength, and I hope even the conduct process will be a learning experience,’” Rode said. “There is nobody who hasn’t screwed up.”

The philosophy behind Rode’s actions and choices comes from the work of psychologist Alfred Adler who believed everyone is on the same level.

“People are not superior, and people are not inferior either,” Rode said. “We’re all just passing through, so don’t take everything too seriously.”

NW president Zarina Blankenbaker said Rode has helped her be the best she can be by learning from him and the way he does things.

“A perfect employee is the one who inspires his supervisor as much as his supervisor inspires him,” Blankenbaker said.

Ruth Gonzalez, who was Rode’s administrative assistant for almost 20 years, looked back on her time with Rode and said what she believed was his key to success.

“He is the student,” Gonzalez said. “He is a psychologist. He has patience like you wouldn’t believe, and he will always reply even if it might not be what you want to hear.”

Rode takes pride in his job, and it shows as he reminisced about his years of service.

“Being the vice president of student development services was my dream job,” Rode said. “I got to live the dream for 23 years.”

# LEAD ON TO A BRIGHT FUTURE.

TEXAS CH

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admissions.tcu.edu/transfer

**TCU**

### CRIME BLOTTER CRIME BLOTTER CRIME BLOTTER

<b>Aug. 27</b> Intimidation and assaultive offense of a terroristic threat was reported on SE Campus.	<b>Aug. 28</b> A theft totaling \$100 or more was reported in WCTS on NW Campus.
<b>Aug. 27</b> Reckless damage or destruction was reported in OWTL on NW Campus.	<b>Aug. 28</b> An act of stalking was reported in the C Wing on SE Campus.
<b>Aug. 27</b> A act of stalking was reported in NBSS on NE Campus.	<b>Aug. 29</b> A hit and run to a vehicle causing \$200 or more of damage was reported on 2100 Southeast Pkwy near SE Campus.
<b>Aug. 28</b> Fraudulent use or possession of an I.D. was reported in the D Wing on SE Campus.	<b>Aug. 30</b> Criminal trespassing or a violation of trespass warning was reported in the TXU Power Plant owned by TCC.

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